

# Wildflower Weekend Program Schedule

May 12-13, 2007

## Saturday, May 12

### **\*Pass Mountain Birding Stroll**

8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

You don't have to walk far to find warblers and other birds if the habitat is right. Check out the forest edge and perhaps take a short woodland walk. ¼ mile. Total climb: about 50 ft. Meet at Pass Mountain Overlook (mile 30.1).

*Alan Williams, Ecologist/Data Manager, Shenandoah National Park*

### **Wildflower Identification for Beginners**

9:30 to 11 a.m.

If wildflowers are casual acquaintances that you'd like to get to know better, this program's for you. Learn characteristics of some flower families and key them out using a field guide. Meet at Milam Gap parking area (mile 52.8) for a slow-paced stroll.

*Robyn Nolen, Volunteer Naturalist*

### **Marvelous Millers Head**

9:30 a.m. to noon

Hike down a rocky ridge to Millers Head (elev. 3,465 ft.) and a wonderful view of the Shenandoah Valley. Some uncommon plants may be blooming here. Steep uphill return. 1.6 mile. Total climb: about 450 ft. Meet at Millers Head trailhead: from Skyline Drive, turn into **south** entrance to Skyland (mile 42.5), pass stables and keep to left when road forks; park at top of hill.

*Nick Fisichelli, Lead Botany Technician, Shenandoah National Park*

### **\*Sentimental Journal**

9:30 to 11 a.m.

Take a close look at wildflowers, learn to observe nature, and let your creative side blossom like a spring bud during this journaling activity. ½ mile. Meet at Pocosin parking area (mile 59.5, **unmarked**, east side of Skyline Drive). **Limited parking.**

*John Manka, Park Ranger, Shenandoah National Park*

### **\*Nature Photography: Simply Beautiful**

10 to 11 a.m.

If an ordinary picture is worth a thousand words, think of the message that a great picture can convey. Learn how to compose elements to change a plain nature shot into a "wow" photo that has meaning and expression. This workshop will present basics of digital photography for beginners, as well as tips for advanced photographers. Bring your camera and your questions. Meet at Byrd Visitor Center auditorium (milepost 51).

### **Optional Field Session**

11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Big Meadows

*Rob and Ann Simpson, Professional Photographers and Naturalists*

### **Butterflies in the Meadow**

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Learn some butterfly identification basics, then take a stroll in search of spring azures, pearl crescents and more. Bring binoculars, if you have them. Meet in front of Byrd Visitor Center (milepost 51).

*Mara Meisel, Park Ranger, Shenandoah National Park*

### **Wildflowers of the Appalachian Trail**

1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Discover what's blooming on a gentle section of the famous Georgia-to-Maine trail. 2 miles. Meet at Milam Gap parking area (mile 52.8).

*Betty Rosson, Volunteer Naturalist*

### **Bugs and Blooms**

2 to 3:30 p.m. Children's program.

Through fun-filled activities, find out how plants and insects rely on each other in the meadow. Meet in front of Byrd Visitor Center (milepost 51).

*John Manka, Park Ranger, Shenandoah National Park*

### **South River Falls Hike**

2 to 5:30 p.m.

Violets, wild geraniums and many more flowers greet hikers on this trail to a waterfall viewpoint. Strenuous but lovely. 3.3 miles. Total climb: about 910 ft. Meet at trailhead in South River Picnic Area (mile 62.8).

*Mara Meisel, Park Ranger, Shenandoah National Park*

## **Sunday, May 13**

### **Birds and Blossoms of Pocosin**

8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Look and listen for scarlet tanagers, redstarts and many more as you identify wildflowers along the fire road to the ruins of Pocosin Mission. 2 miles. Total climb: about 400 ft. Meet at Pocosin parking area (mile 59.5, **unmarked**, east side of Skyline Drive).

#### **Limited parking.**

*Diane Holsinger, Volunteer Naturalist*

### **Wonders of the Mill Prong**

9:30 a.m. to noon

Changes in elevation, aspect and forest type make this a reliable trail for a variety of wildflowers. Steep in places; three small stream crossings. 4.1 miles. Total climb: about 870 ft. Meet at Milam Gap parking area (mile 52.8).

*Tom Dierauf, Volunteer Naturalist*

**\*Stony Man-Passamaquoddy Loop**

9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

See what high-elevation flowers are blooming among the rocks of this loop trail including Stony Man summit (elev. 4,011 ft.), Little Stony Man Cliffs, and Passamaquoddy Trail. 3.5 miles. Total climb: 770 ft.

*Sue Schaefer, Park Ranger, Shenandoah National Park*

**\*Wildflowers and Unique Plants of Shenandoah**

10 to 11 a.m.

Why are Canadian wildflowers growing here? Do ferns really share love triangles? Find answers to these questions and meet some of Shenandoah's most beautiful flowers at this amazing PowerPoint presentation. Meet at Byrd Visitor Center auditorium (milepost 51).

**\*Optional field session**

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., meeting place to be announced that day. Bring field guides, if you have them.

*Rob and Ann Simpson, Professional Photographers and Naturalists*

**Gravel Springs-Bluff Trail Walk**

1 to 4 p.m.

Join our park botanist for a brief introduction to botany basics, then explore the spring area and see what's blooming along the Bluff Trail. 2 miles. Total climb: about 200 ft. Meet at Gravel Springs Gap (mile 17.6). **Limited parking.**

*Wendy Cass, Botanist, Shenandoah National Park*

**\*Whiteoak-Limberlost Trail**

1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Follow the flowers through woodland and wetland. In the Limberlost, see what plants are coming in as the venerable old hemlock grove gives way to new growth. 2 miles. Total climb: about 280 ft. Meet at **Whiteoak Canyon** parking area (mile 42.6).

*Mara Meisel, Park Ranger, Shenandoah National Park*

**Lewis Mountain Stroll**

2 to 3:30 p.m.

Look for woodland marvels such as jack-in-the-pulpit and wood betony on this short hike along the Appalachian Trail. ½ mile. Meet at Lewis Mountain Picnic Area (mile 57.5).

*Betty Rosson, Volunteer Naturalist*

\* Indicates programs that are new this year.